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ON PAGE 1A

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SAM MEDDIS

USA TODAY columnist

A year of spy-dust in our eyes

WASHINGTON — The Year of the Spy came in like a lion:

Richard Miller, the only FBI agent ever charged with espionage, was awaiting trial in Los Angeles — along with his Russian lover and her husband.

The space shuttle launched a \$300 million spy satellite in its first "secret" mission.

Soviet defector Arkady Shevchenko published memoirs revealing he'd been a CIA spy for nearly three years before leaving Russia.

And aerospace engineer Thomas Cavanagh agreed to plead guilty to trying to sell Stealth bomber plans to FBI agents posing as Soviet spies.

Spring brought what intelligence experts call the most damaging case in decades.

John Walker Jr., a retired Navy communications officer, was charged with heading a four-member espionage team trading secrets to the Soviets.

The team included son Michael, a seaman assigned to the aircraft carrier Nimitz, and brother Arthur, a defense contractor's employee. The fourth accused member, Jerry Whitworth, is to stand trial in San Francisco next month.

There were no summer doldrums thanks to Michael Sousoudis, a Ghanian living in the USA, and Sharon M. Scranage, a CIA clerk. Both were charged with leaking secrets to Ghana.

Fall brought more spy color. Samuel Loring Morison, a Navy analyst, was convicted of passing classified satellite photos to a British military journal.

And Edward Howard, a fired CIA employee, fled from his New Mexico home as the FBI was about to arrest him for selling secrets to the Soviets.

He was fingered by Vitaly Yurchenko — the fickle KGB defector who returned to Russia on Nov. 6, saying he had

Sam Meddis is a reporter for USA TODAY.

been kidnapped by the CIA.

Last month, an FBI sweep landed four spy suspects in five days — involving three separate government agencies and three foreign governments:

■ Ronald William Pelton, a former National Security Agency worker, accused of spying for the U.S.S.R.

■ Larry Wu-Tai Chin, retired CIA analyst, charged with passing national security documents to China.

■ Jonathan J. Pollard, a civilian employee of the Naval Investigative Service, accused of spying for Israel.

■ Anne L. Henderson-Pollard, Pollard's wife, charged with possessing classified documents.

As the spy dust clears, The Year of the Spy is not going out like a lamb.